

Fair tonight and tomorrow; light southwesterly winds.

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PHYSICIANS FIND GREAT SUFFERING BY LACK OF COAL

Not Sufficient Fuel in Many Homes to Keep Sick Rooms Heated—Only the Wealthy Can Afford to Keep Houses Warm.

Crisis Rapidly Approaching, According to Local Dealers—Schools Should Be Closed and Other Drastic Measures Adopted.

With little children suffering from pneumonia and other ailments, and their parents, though in fairly good circumstances, unable to obtain sufficient fuel to keep the sick rooms warm, the coal famine prevailing in the city developed another and more serious phase this morning. A canvass of a number of physicians of the city shows that except in the wealthiest residences of the city, all effort to heat the entire house has been abandoned, and those are fortunate who are able to keep one or two rooms at an even temperature. The situation as disclosed through the confidential visits of the physicians is serious, and in the opinion of practically every practitioner intense suffering and death are inevitable unless some immediate steps are taken for the relief of the city.

There is probably no better way of ascertaining the true situation in residences than through the family physician. The expressions received from practically every member of the profession consulted this morning were the same.

Dr. Lewis J. Battle, of 205 C Street, said he had found many homes to which the next cold spell will bring suffering and illness.

"Among the poor colored families in the alleys," he said, "the situation is particularly distressing. In many of these houses there has not been a fire in the stoves this winter. In several instances I have found cases of bronchitis, and even pneumonia, being nursed in rooms colder than on the outside of the buildings."

Dr. Grafton D. P. Bailey, 223 Four-and-a-half Street northwest, has a serious case of typhoid fever in an apartment house on Thirteenth Street northwest, where there has been no heat for several days at a time. In another locality he is attending a case of pneumonia that is similarly situated.

Dr. L. W. Glazebrook, of 2022 F Street northwest, takes a happier view of the situation.

"I believe the homes are healthier this year than formerly, as in the winter time they are usually kept too warm."

Dr. G. L. Magruder, of the Farragut, has found most of his patients with only limited supplies of coal, and complaining not only of its scarcity, but of the prices they are compelled to pay.

Dr. Charles C. Marbury, of 1121 Fourteenth Street northwest, found several cases of sickness in apartment houses that for several days at a time were entirely without coal, and the heating plants shut down. "It is frightful to contemplate the suffering that will prevail unless some unforeseen relief is afforded," said Dr. Marbury.

Dr. Clifton Mayfield, 1335 Thirteenth Street northwest, said:

"Suffering is inevitable this winter, although I have not run across any serious cases."

Dr. George C. Ober, 201 B Street southeast, said that in his section of the city coal was difficult to obtain at any price. "Most of my patients have a small quantity on hand, but the shortage is distressing."

Dr. L. S. Savage, of Benning, has found but little coal in the homes of his patients and elsewhere.

"The suffering and death that will prevail during the winter, beginning with the first cold snap, is terrifying to contemplate," said Dr. D. Percy Hickling, of 221 Third Street northwest.

The Times, through its investigations, has disclosed the fact that the Government department hospitals, hotels, apartment houses and office buildings.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Clear, with a general east of the Rocky mountains, and a cold morning, except in the north and west and northern New England.

Temperatures moderate over all districts, except in the Cape region and along the south Atlantic and east Gulf coasts. The weather is generally fair tonight, with a light breeze from the south and south-west, with a slight change in temperature.

On the coast, the winds will be fresh to strong, and on the middle Atlantic coast fresh to strong, with a light breeze from the south and south-west, with a slight change in temperature.

Steamers departing today for European ports will have fresh west to southwest winds, and fair weather to the Grand Banks.

9 a. m. 87
12 p. 45
1 p. 46

Sun sets today at 4:40 p. m.
Sun rises tomorrow at 7:15 a. m.

Low tide today at 10:30 a. m. and 6:30 p. m.
High tide today at 4:30 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.
Low tide tomorrow at 11:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.
High tide tomorrow at 3:30 a. m. and 11:30 a. m.

CONGRESS ASKED FOR MORE MONEY

Commission Appeals For Additional Appropriation to Erect the New Municipal Building.

\$1,000,000 IS NEEDED.

Closing of D Street, Between Thirteen-and-a-Half and Fourteenth Streets, is Also Requested.

The building commission, in charge of the construction of the proposed municipal building, today submitted its report upon the competition for plans to Senator Frye, president of the Senate, and to Speaker Henderson, of the House of Representatives. This report sums up the work of the commission to date, and gives the result of the recently ended competition, and the plans of Cope & Stewardson, the successful architects.

The commission presents the views of the several competing architects relative to the smallness of the site purchased and the inadequacy of the amount available for the building. It asks Congress to appropriate \$1,000,000 additional money to complete the building, and for legislation authorizing the closing of D Street, between Thirteen-and-a-half and Fourteenth Streets, and the acquisition of additional land in the square south of the present site purchased for the building. No additional money is requested for the purchase of the land.

The commission is composed of the Secretary of the Treasury, the District Commissioners, and J. Knox Taylor, their professional adviser.

RECORD SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

King Edward, in Speech, Regrets That England Has Found It Necessary to Act Against Venezuela.

ADJOURNMENT TAKEN

British Ruler Expresses Hope That Conference of Premiers and Chamberlain Visit to South Africa Will Prove of Value.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The session of parliament, which began on January 16, ended today. It was the longest on record.

The King's speech in proroguing parliament contains the following paragraph:

"I regret that the constant complaints which my government found necessary to address to the government of Venezuela in regard to unjustifiable and arbitrary acts against British subjects and property, within the past two years, have been persistently disregarded, and it has become necessary to insist upon measures of redress."

The remainder of the speech records the conclusion of the treaty between England and Japan, the negotiation of the Anglo-Chinese commercial treaty, and the signing of the Brussels sugar convention.

Conference of Value.

The King expressed the hope that the conference of the colonial premiers here, and the visit of Secretary Chamberlain to South Africa, will be of the utmost value. He also says that agreements have been made for the withdrawal of the international forces from Shanghai.

The speech concludes: "Lord Curzon, the viceroy of India, is about to hold a great assembly at Delhi for the purpose of proclaiming my succession to the imperial crown of India. It gives me the highest satisfaction to reflect that this important ceremony is associated with a period of unusual commercial and financial prosperity."

STOCKS JUMP ON NEWS OF PEACE IN VENEZUELA

Strongest Bull Movement in Three Months.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Belief in Wall Street today that the Venezuela matter would be settled by arbitration caused the strongest bull market on the stock exchange for the last three months. Advances in prices were made on all standard stocks from 1 to 3 points, making an average of a 2-point rise over yesterday's closing prices.

As soon as it was noticed that there was a sudden rise in American securities in London this morning it was whispered around the street that there would be a substantial bull movement here. It was left to the actual market to ascertain exactly how much of a gain would really be recorded.

Nearly every stock jumped from 1 to 1½ points on the opening of the market. In the first hour further advances were made.

St. Paul which closed yesterday at 168½, got up to 171½ within the first half hour. Southern Pacific which closed yesterday at 60½, got up to 63, which was seven points above its low water mark of 56 in the tumble of prices last week.

Manhattan, which closed at 144½, opened at 145½ and advanced to 146. Metropolitan, which closed at 137½, opened at 138 and went to 138½. Sugar which closed at 124, opened at 125 and reached 125½.

Baltimore and Ohio gained 1½, selling at 96, as against yesterday's closing at 94½. New York Central jumped 1½ points from 150½ at yesterday's closing. Pennsylvania went up 1¼ from 152½, its closing figure. Southern Railway gained 1½ over yesterday's closing.

It was the same way throughout the list of railroads and industrials.

NEW ENGLAND SHIP OWNERS COMBINE

Merger Company With Capital of One Million Dollars Formed.

ROCKLAND, Me., Dec. 18.—The American Navigation Company, which has just formed in this State with a capitalization of \$1,000,000, contemplates the establishment of a splendid fleet of vessels under one head, and some important changes in the management of shipping. For some months past wealthy ship-owners have had such a move under consideration. Vessel property in many New England ports will be merged into this big company, and from time to time the company will build vessels to add to the fleet.

HOUSE CALLS ON HAY FOR LIGHT ON VENEZUELAN IMBROGLIO

SPANISH NEWSPAPERS VIOLENT AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

Accuse This Government of Cowardice and Duplicité in Its Attitude in the Venezuelan Affair.

MADRID, Dec. 18.—The local press today gives utterance to most violent expressions against the American Government for the neutral attitude which it is maintaining toward occurrences in Venezuela. A good sample of these editorials is the one printed in the important Republican paper, "El Pais." The paper says:

"Just as the meanness and brutality of England and Germany irritate, so the cowardice and duplicity of the United States nauseate, for the American Government hides behind its back at this juncture the Monroe Doctrine, which was used against Spain because we had no wars, cannon, nor millions of money to spend, such as England and Germany command."

DEWEY'S WEST INDIAN FLEET GIVEN ORDERS

Four Battleships Will Go to Trinidad.

DAY'S SAIL FROM VENEZUELA

Vessels Not Assigned to South American Republic For Diplomatic Reasons—Naval Officer Assigned.

The Bureau of Navigation this morning announced the disposition of Admiral Dewey's fleet as called to the Navy Department by Admiral Dewey on December 14, and approved today by Secretary Moody. As has been foretold a powerful part of the immense squadron will go to Trinidad, but 370 miles, or about twenty-six hours' sail, from La Guaira; another section will spend the holidays at Curacao, but 167 miles from La Guaira, and the other vessels will be distributed among the islands of the Lesser Antilles and Porto Rico.

Admiral Dewey's dispatch of December 14, which has been approved, follows:

"San Juan, Christmas holidays: Kearsage, Alabama, Massachusetts, Iowa, Scorpion, at Trinidad; Illinois, Indiana, Hitt, at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies; Texas, at Pointe-a-pitre, Guadalupe; Chicago, Newark, Eagle, at Curacao; San Francisco, Albany, Wasp, at Mayaguez, Porto Rico; Cincinnati, Atlanta, Prairie, tug; and torpedo boats, at San Juan; Culgoa, at Mayaguez and San Juan; Olympia, Nashville, Machias, at St. Kitts; Detroit, at Antigua; Mayflower (Admiral Dewey's flagship) and Viceroy, in Porto Rican waters and vicinity; Dolphin, at Antigua and vicinity."

A Merry Christmas.

Secretary Moody replied to this dispatch as follows:

"December 18. 'Dewey, San Juan: 'Carry out your proposed holiday itinerary. Merry Christmas.'"

For diplomatic reasons it was deemed best by the State and Navy Department officials that none of the American vessels be assigned to Venezuelan waters, although several are placed in close proximity to La Guaira.

Yesterday, in reply to a request made by Minister Bowen at Caracas, that a naval officer be detailed to assist him, Secretary Moody, at the request of the State Department, temporarily detailed Lieutenant Commander Van Duzen, now stationed on the Marietta, for duty at Caracas.

Lieutenant Commander Van Duzen is to be relieved by an officer sent to Admiral Dewey. This officer will go to La Guaira on a fast torpedo boat, which will undoubtedly remain in Venezuelan waters when once it arrives there.

GUESTS OF BURNING HOTEL ESCAPE IN NIGHT CLOTHES

Railroad Men Leave Money and Other Belongings in Youngwood Fire.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 18.—The Youngwood Hotel at Youngwood, a new railroad town near Greensburg, Pa., was destroyed by fire early this morning; loss \$20,000; insurance, \$15,000.

When the fire was discovered it had made so much headway that the guests did not have time to dress, and escaped in their night clothes. Most of the boarders were railroad men, who had just been paid. They lost their money, as well as their clothes.

ARMAT COMPANY WINS ITS SUIT AGAINST WIZARD EDISON

The Armat Motion Picture Company yesterday won an important suit in New York in its fight against Thomas A. Edison. The latter was enjoined by Judge Lacombe, in the United States circuit court for the Southern district, from manufacturing, using, or selling certain moving picture devices now used extensively throughout the United States.

This decision affects many theaters and big amusement enterprises, which, under Judge Lacombe's decision, it is said, are now liable for damages and an accounting to the Armat Company. This same company a few days ago won a suit for \$150,000 damages and an accounting against the American Mutoscope and Biograph Company, of New York.

VENEZUELAN BLOCKADE MAY NOW BE IN FORCE

London Shipping and Insurance Men Worried.

ITALY FAVORS ARBITRATION

German Official Says England Never Intended to Declare War Against Venezuela—Move Not Deemed Necessary.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—A news agency dispatch from La Guaira dated yesterday, says the blockade of Venezuelan ports has begun. It applies to Venezuelan vessels only.

The leading shipping and insurance firms have informed the Government that the question as to whether a state of war with Venezuela in the diplomatic sense actually exists and when it began is of greatest importance to them.

The leading owners and underwriters say that only a firm belief that the present position in Venezuela will be of short duration makes it tolerable.

ROME, Dec. 18.—It was announced here today that England, Germany and Italy have agreed to blockade Venezuela if President Castro continues to be stubborn and stands out against granting the demands.

The Italian government strongly favors arbitration through the United States.

BERLIN, Dec. 18.—A high official of the foreign office said today that England never intended to officially declare war against Venezuela. Such a declaration, it was pointed out, was only necessary if the invasion and conquest of Venezuela were planned.

In further explanation of the situation the official said it was not impossible, however, that the blockade might create situations similar to those that existed during a state of war.

COLOGNE, Dec. 18.—A Berlin dispatch to the "Cologne Gazette" says the excitement of a portion of the American press over the Venezuelan affair is not justified by the facts. The American Government knows well that Germany does not dream of annexing any Venezuelan territory.

LYNCHBURG STREET CAR MEN'S PAY INCREASED

Five Per Cent To Be Added to Wages On Account of Higher Cost of Living.

LYNCHBURG, Va., Dec. 18.—The employees of the Lynchburg Traction and Light Company, numbering 126, have been notified that their wages will be increased 5 per cent on January 1. The increased cost of living induced the company to make the advance.

Five loaded coal cars of an eastbound freight train were wrecked yesterday afternoon near Bedford City. No one was hurt. Passenger trains had to transit.

HAY-BOND TREATY NOT MET WITH FAVOR

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Not Likely to Make Favorable Report.

Members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations said last night there is little probability of a favorable report on the Hay-Bond treaty for reciprocity between the United States and Newfoundland. The testimony given to the committee yesterday morning by a delegation from Maine and Massachusetts composed of representatives from the lower houses of the Legislatures of those States was most effective in creating a sentiment against the treaty. The delegation championed the interests of the New England fishermen.

The witnesses called attention to the fact that Newfoundland produces a million quintals of fish a year, and declared that if the treaty should be declared fully one-half of that product would come to the United States. It was urged further this would be a concession of several hundred thousand dollars in the way of duties, and the return concession in the form of free bait, which the treaty provides for, would not amount to more than \$4,000 annually.

Passes Resolution of Inquiry Asking for Information Not Incompatible with the Public Interests.

Mr. Shafroth Makes Lengthy Argument Before Committee on Foreign Affairs in Favor of Arbitration.

"Resolved, That the Secretary of State be directed, if not incompatible with the public interests, to inform the House of Representatives touching any understanding or agreement between the governments of Great Britain and Germany on the one hand and the diplomatic officers of the United States on the other, or any assurances by the said governments to the diplomatic officers of the United States, as to the nature, extent, and purpose of the joint demonstration of said governments against Venezuela, and particularly with reference to the occupation of the territory of Venezuela, and to transmit to the House of Representatives the correspondence, if any, upon the subject between the diplomatic officers of the United States and the said governments, or either of them."

The Venezuelan imbroglio came before the House today immediately after the reading of the journal.

Mr. Hitt, chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reported the McCall resolution of inquiry, quoted above, and it was adopted. The De Armond resolution was placed upon the table.

The former resolution, Mr. Hitt explained, in addressing the House, was approved by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, because in their opinion it was in better form than the other.

It included everything in the De Armond resolution except the expression of opinion by the Secretary of State, which the committee thought the House ought not to ask. The recommendation that an inquiry be made was the unanimous act of the committee; but out of personal regard for the author, Mr. Hitt explained, some of the members would have preferred the De Armond resolution.

To Learn All.

Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, asked if the resolution should not call for the correspondence with Italy and other countries as well as Great Britain and Germany. Mr. Hitt replied that he had been informed the response of the department to the resolution would include all correspondence on the Venezuelan matter.

The Foreign Affairs Committee also heard a lengthy argument by Mr. Shafroth, of Colorado, in support of his bill authorizing the President to request Great Britain and Germany to submit their claims against Venezuela to arbitration, provided the United States guarantee the claims. Mr. Shafroth said there could no longer be any doubt, after Mr. Balfour's words in the English parliament yesterday, but that a state of war existed in Venezuela. Such a condition was a continual source of danger and a menace to the peace of the United States.

The amount of the claims, he maintained, were trivial as compared with the loss which might yet accrue in case a conflict should break out between this country and the European powers. Such a conflict might occur owing to the proximity of the British and German and American fleets.

As matters stood today the President's hands were tied. Some authority should be given him to at least bring about a cessation of the conflict by arbitration, even if the United States would have to guarantee the claims.

Mr. Burleson of Texas asked Mr. Shafroth under what provision of the Constitution he believed the United States could guarantee payment of the claims. In answer Mr. Shafroth said he thought the clause on the general welfare of the country would cover it.

The exact amount of the claims, Mr. Shafroth said he had been unable to estimate, information being wanting. They were not large, however, and he believed were fully covered by counter-claims which Venezuela could present for the destruction of her war vessels and the bombardment of Puerto Cabello, with its consequent loss of life. The European powers had overstepped their rights when they sank Venezuela's ships and fired on her forts.

Position Much Different.

As for any precedent that might arise from the United States guaranteeing the claims, Mr. Shafroth said Venezuela's position was much different from that of any of the other of the South American republics, possibly excepting Colombia. For five years she had been rent by civil strife. Venezuela was poor. She could not pay the claims at once, no matter what action Great Britain and Germany might take.

"Blood cannot be sucked from a turnip," he declared, "any more than money can be secured from Venezuela's drained treasury."

Mr. Shafroth further said the seat of the trouble lay entirely too near the Panama Canal, and complications of a most serious nature to the United States might develop without a moment's warning.

The committee, desirous of considering the bill further, carried the measure over.